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NEWS AND NOTES

The autumn meeting of the New York State Forestry Association was held at the Garden on October 17.

Dr. Ralph Jones has resigned from the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington to become professor of botany at Emory College, Oxford, Georgia.

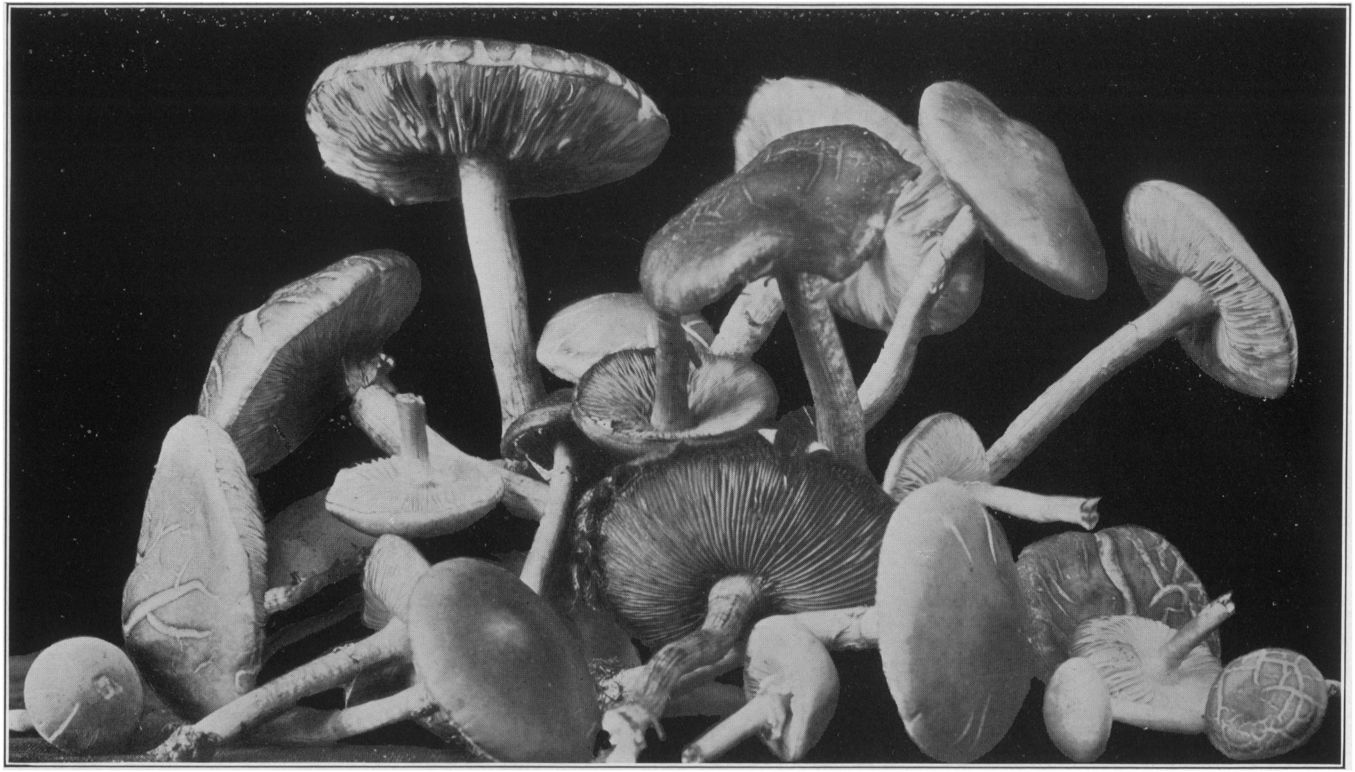
Professor W. C. Sturgis, formerly of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and now connected with Colorado College, visited the Garden October 15.

Mr. S. R. Winston, formerly assistant in plant pathology at the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed plant pathologist at the Hood River Branch Experiment Station in Oregon.

Mr. H. L. Rees has moved to the Western Washington Experiment Station, and Mr. G. H. Godfrey now fills the position vacated by Mr. Rees at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station.

Professor Adolf Engler, director of the Berlin Botanic Garden and senior author of the well-known systematic work on natural plant families, spent October 17 at the Garden, and met most of the local botanists socially in the evening at a dinner given in his honor.

Dr. E. D. Clark, known to the readers of MYCOLOGIA for his chemical investigations of the poisonous properties of certain fungi, has resigned his position in the Cornell Medical College to accept one in the Bureau of Chemistry at Washington.



STERILE FORM OF PHOLIOTA CANDICANS (BULL.) SCHROET.

Mr. L. O. Overholts, who holds a Lackland research fellowship at the Missouri Botanical Garden, spent six weeks during the past summer at Tolland, Colorado, collecting flowering plants and fungi. He expects to publish some account of his fungous collections in a few months.

A paper on the species of *Synchytrium* in the vicinity of Stanford University, by James McMurphy, appeared in the Dudley Memorial Volume of the Leland Stanford Junior University Publications for March, 1913. The following species are reported: *S. papillatum* Farlow, *S. innominatum* Farlow, *S. andinum* Lagh., and *S. Amsinckiae;* the last, occurring on *Amsinckia intermedia,* being described as new. *Urophlyctis pluriannulatus* Farlow is also reported.

A comparative study of the development of the fruit body in *Phallogaster, Hysterangium,* and *Gautieria* has been made by Mr. H. M. Fitzpatrick at Cornell University, and the results published in a recent number of *Annales Mycologici* with copious illustrations. The author discusses rather fully some of the latest opinions regarding the relationship and origin of the different large groups of gastromycetes and suggests that a careful developmental study be made also of *Dendrogaster, Protoglossum, Gymnoglossum,* and *Clathrogaster,* with a view to solving problems connected with the evolution of the gastromycetes. He outlines the following series as illustrating the origin of the Clathraceae: *Gautieria — Chamonixia — Hysterangium — Protubera — Phallogaster — Clathraceae* (*Clathrella Clathrus*).

Miss Adeline Ames has recently published in the *Annales Mycologici* an excellent paper on structure as related to genera in the Polyporaceae, illustrated with 4 plates, containing 76 figures. The genera recognized are *Polyporus, Bjerkandera, Ischnoderma, Cryptoporus, Piptoporus, Favolus, Porodisculus, Phaeolus, Coriolus, Trametes, Daedalea, Polystictus, Phellinus, Fomes,* and *Ganoderma.* Four of these are monotypic, and four others contain very few species; so that most of the polypores are distributed among seven genera, according to this classification. The genus *Polyporus* is divided into four sections on the presence or absence of a stipe and the simple or duplex character of the trama. This will appeal to those who are accustomed to the old cumbersome arrangement adopted by Saccardo and who look upon a generic name as something sacred. Others, perhaps, who consider a genus simply as a group of species more closely related to each other than to any other group, will prefer a simpler and more modern system.

STERILITY IN PHOLIOTA CANDICANS (BULL.) SCHROET.

A very interesting sterile form of this species, ordinarily known as *Pholiota praecox,* appeared in 1910, 1911, and 1912 under a large white oak on the grounds of the New York Botanical Garden. The lamellae were exceedingly thin and remained white, as shown in the accompanying illustration. The sterility was absolute and without apparent cause. A few fertile sporophores were found scattered among the sterile ones as though arising from the same mycelium. It occurred to the writer that this subject might be a good one for investigation by some graduate student. In this particular case, also, there might be a chance to cultivate an early "seedless" variety of mushroom for the market which would not be discolored by spores nor expend its energies on producing spores instead of edible substance.

Other cases of sterility in gill-fungi have been noted rarely by mycologists. Dr. Peck mentions a case of sterility in *Psilocybe uda;* and Dr. B. O. Dodge tells me that he once collected two baskets full of a sterile species of *Clitopilus.* The abortions of *Clitopilus abortivus* and *Armillaria mellea* before the gills are formed are generally well-known, but the reason for them may not be so clear. Another class of abortions not accompanied by sterility is represented by *Abortiporus distortus* and various species of *Ptychogaster.*

W. A. MURRILL.

THE GENUS SYNCHYTRIUM[1]

This monograph represents several years of careful and painstaking work on the genus, which was founded by De Bary and Woronin in 1863 for two species, *S. Taraxaci* and *S. Succsiae*. The morphology, cytology, biology, and relation of the fungus to its host are treated in detail both by a review of the extensive literature and from original studies. The taxonomic portion of the paper shows marked conservatism, both by the retention of species such as *S. pluriannulatum,* which recently have been transferred to other genera, and by following the older systems of classification. The genus is divided into two subgenera, *Eusynchytrium,* to which 9 species are assigned, and *Haplochytrium* (the genus *Pycnochytrium* Schröter) with 17 species. Of the remaining species, 25 are not distributed and 12 are classed as doubtful. No further comment is necessary concerning the need of additional life history studies on species of the genus. Of the 63 species included, 3 are new. While *S. aureum* possesses an array of 130 hosts and numerous named forms, no member of the genus can be called cosmopolitan, at least from the data given. The geographical distribution is as follows: North America 21 species, South America 7, Europe 35, Asia 5, Africa 3, Australia 2, and New Zealand 1. Of the North American species, 12 are endemic, 8 are also found in Europe, 2 in Africa, and 1 in Australia. The excellent plates, the indexes, and the careful treatment of the subject matter will make this work of great value to all students of the lower fungi.

GUY WEST WILSON.

A BAD YEAR FOR FLESHY FUNGI

The past season has been peculiarly unfavorable for the growth of fleshy fungi in the region about New York. The heavy rains late in September and October brought out certain species in great numbers, but they came too late for most of the summer and early autumn forms.

The shaggy-mane, *Coprinus comatus,* occurred again this year as it did last year in the greatest abundance on a new street east of the New York Botanical Garden which was heavily surfaced with topsoil and allowed to grow up in weeds. Under similar conditions, Mr. George E. Pollock found great quantities of this species at Holmesdale, Massachusetts, growing in tufts almost as close as those of *Coprinus atramentarius.*

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[1] Die Synchytrien. Studien zu einer Monographie der Gattung. Von Dr. Gertrud Tobler geb. Wolff. Archiv fü Protistenkunde **28**: 141–238, *pl. 10–13,* 1913. Also issued as a repaged separate, 8°. pp. 98, *pl. 4.* 1913.

The giant puffball, *Calvatia maxima,* also appears to have been unusually abundant this year. One specimen was found on the grounds of the Garden, and a very attractive group developed in Mr. Boeder's yard in Williamsbridge, just north of the Garden reservation. Photographs of this group made by Mrs. Boeder have been added to the mycological collection. Another recent addition is a photograph of a giant puffball from Sendai, Japan, taken by Professor A. Yasuda.

The common field puffball, *Calvatia cyathiformis,* about the size of one's fist and very safe for the amateur mycophagist, was abundant early in October.

Pleurotus ulmarius has been more abundant than usual, growing from knotholes and wounds in elm trees. The white elm has suffered greatly in this vicinity from the attacks of the leaf-beetle, borer, and other causes. In its weakened condition, it cannot easily withstand the invasion of fungi.

The fly agaric, *Amanita muscaria,* appeared in greater abundance than ever before, under the white pines on the grounds of the Garden. Yellow forms prevailed, while many specimens were almost white, and very few showed a decided orange tint. Many years ago, the Italian immigrants are said to have eaten this species by mistake for *Amanita Caesarea,* but there is no evidence that they do this now. The large number of deaths from mushroom eating in New York in recent years has undoubtedly been due to mistaking the white form of *Amanita phalloides* for the ordinary field mushroom or some other edible fungus. *Armillaria mellea,* when growing singly in soil, might at times be confused with a pale form of *Amanita muscaria* by ignorant collectors, who would hardly notice the cottony ring of the former and the patches instead of scales on the surface of the latter.

W. A. MURRILL.